



## GORDO

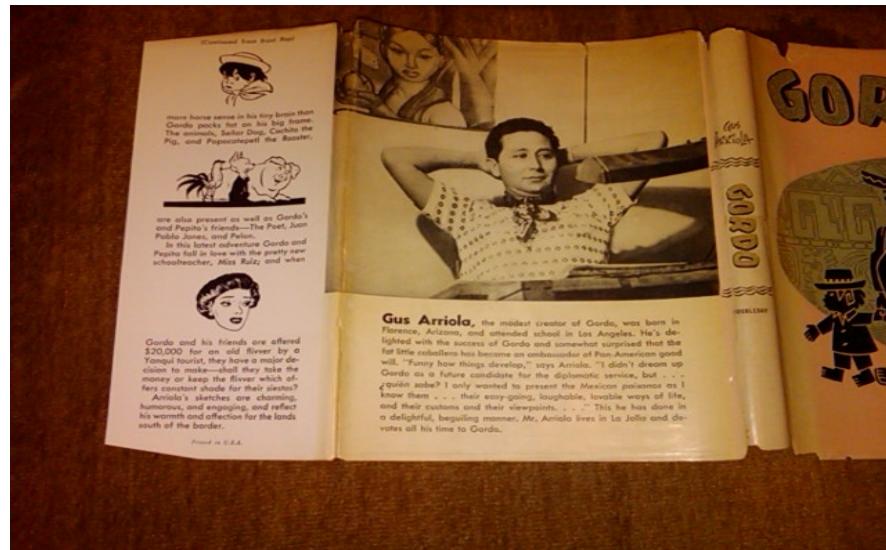
The Only Website Devoted to the comic strip character GORDO LOPEZ and his friends, created by Gus Arriola

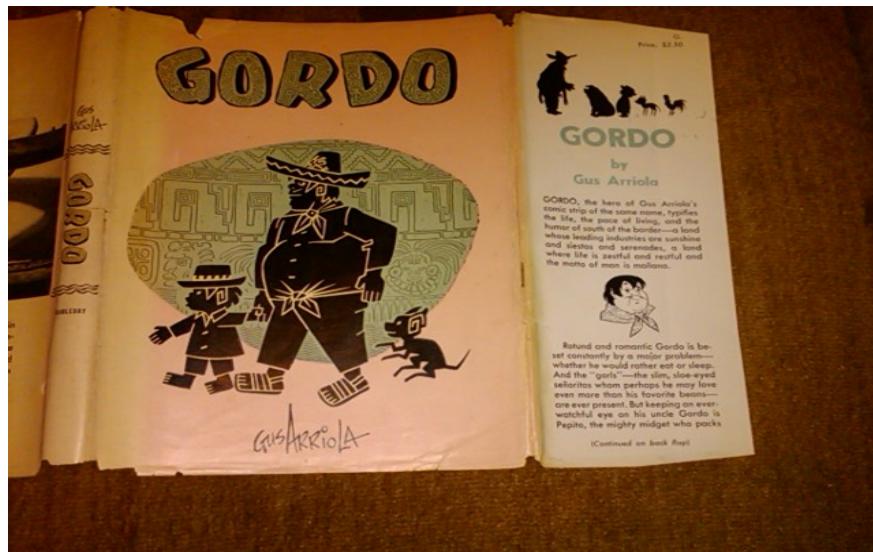
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This is to be a complete bibliography of Gus Arriola. If there are any books missing or corrections to be made, please contact me at [jim@gordocomics.com](mailto:jim@gordocomics.com). Thank you.

## GORDO

Published 1950 (?) by Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, New York. Dedicated "To My Sister Herminia" with a forward by Senor Dog. Hardback (though I believe a soft cover was also published) and priced at \$2.50. As you can see from the dust jacket, the cover art in no way resembles the actual characters.





However, the inside art is true to its source material.



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## A GORDO COLLECTION

These eight books were published by Nitty Gritty Productions in Concord, California in 1972. Each book is 6' 1/4" x 4' 1/4" and each page is a beautifully colored single panel. The stories appear to be reprints of Sunday strips. There is no price printed on the books.



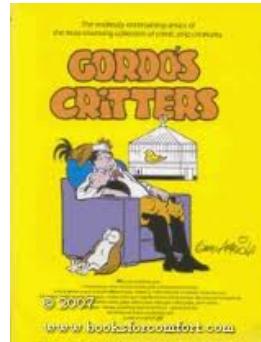
The inside cover and back of each book is identical, save for the book title.



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## **GORDO'S CRITTERS**

CelestialArts, Berkeley, California, 1989. 192 pages. Dedicated "To Carlin - our joy and inspiration" with a forward by Herb Caen. (Carlin is Gus Arriola's son and Herb Caen is a much beloved columnist, lastly of the San Francisco Chronicle.) Priced at \$17.95, this book is a collection of color Sunday strips. Fortunately, it is still readily (though not cheaply) available at Amazon.com, Half.com and elsewhere.

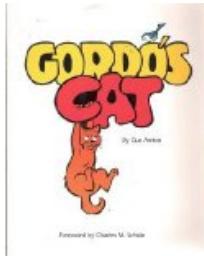


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## **GORDO'S CAT**

Oak Tree Publications, Inc., San Diego, California, 1981. 128 pages.

Dedicated "To Mary Frances Sevier, for reasons beyond count" with a forward by Charles Schulz. Mary Frances is, of course, Gus' wife and if I have to tell you who Charles Schulz is... Priced at \$6.95, this book reprints many Sunday strips, but not in color. It is available at Amazon.com, Half.com and elsewhere.



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## GORDO REDUX

An unpublished book

It is too bad that this book never saw print, as it is a terrific collection of strips, totalling 179 pages. These are samples of the first few pages and one page of strips, taken at random. My unresearched guess is that these are strips from the 1970's. Anyone with a better idea, please contact [jim@gordocomics.com](mailto:jim@gordocomics.com)



## FOREWORD

By Mell Lazarus

As one of his awed colleagues, I could rhapsodize about Gus Arriola's superior draftsmanship (from which the rest of us learned so much about drawing comic pictures) and his elegant use of two languages (he was one of the first purveyors of genuine literacy in our business) but I'd rather dwell on what I've always felt was his major gift to us, namely, a daily voyage to a place where Life is not only portrayed as Life really is, but also as Life should, by rights, be.

Gordo, himself, seems flawed in many of the ways that I am. He seems to err in the same general direction that I do. He indulges his vanities in very much the same manner as I indulge mine. His triumphs are as infrequent and illusory as my own.

As a result, I feel, towards Gordo, the two best feelings known to the human psyche; warm affection and towering superiority.

Gus's animals put all other cartoon animals away. His are not anthropomorphized beasts. His are beastly beasts with beastly souls and beastly sensibilities intact. The difference is, they talk amongst themselves and the rest of us can actually listen in.

We gave up our innocence too early, passed too quickly through that time in our lives when we believed that nobody was bad, and that bugs and pigs and chickens had as much right to reflect on our joint world as we did.

Would you like to get back to those days? So would I. And all it requires is the gentle guidance of a gentle genius.

Such a gentle genius is Gus Arriola

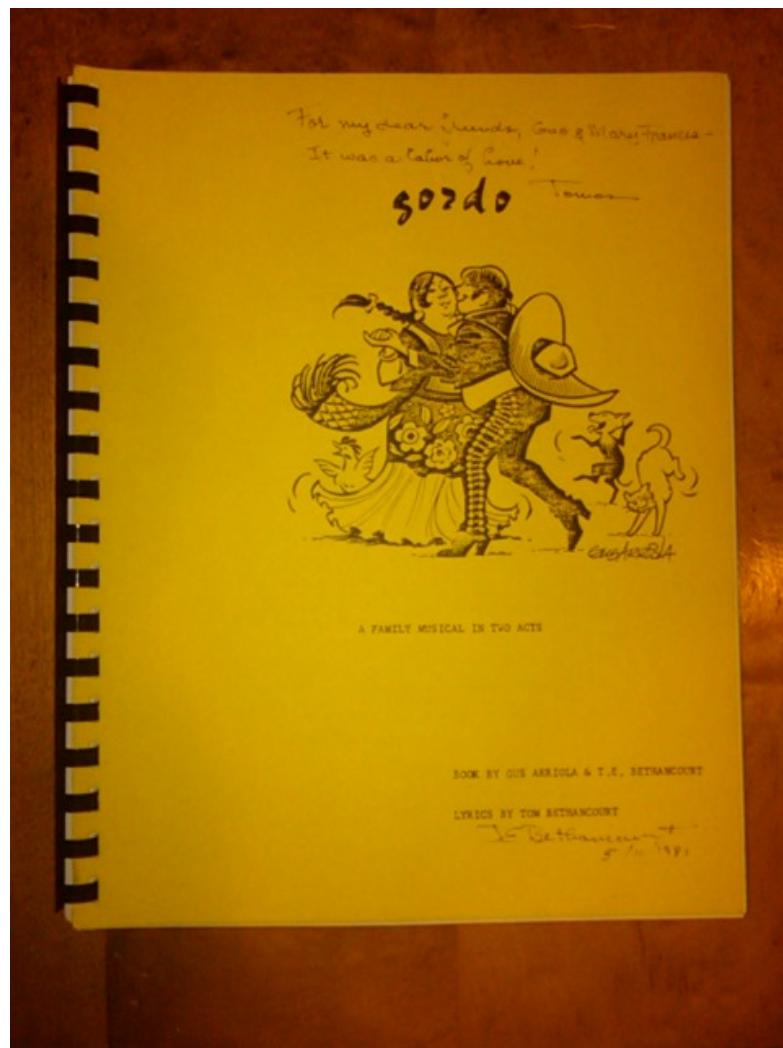
Mell Lazarus, creator of  
"Momma" and "Miss Peach"



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## GORDO - A FAMILY MUSICAL IN TWO ACTS



Here is something you have never seen before - an original play, written by Gus Arriola and T.E. Bethancourt with Lyrics by Tom Bethancourt. My photocopy is hand-dated 5/11/81. The story is about GORDO LOPEZ being pursued by ARTEMISA GONZALES, a very wealthy widow with a keen business acumen who "has only one blind spot: her love for GORDO" and includes the complete cast of GORDO characters. The lyrics are included in the play as an integral part of the story but, alas, no musical notes to go by. The handwritten note at the top of the cover read "For my dear friends, Gus & Mary Frances - It was a labor of love! Tomas"

## SPARKLE COMICS

SPARKLE COMICS is a rarity brought to my attention by Nat Gertler of the excellent PEANUTS website [WWW.AAUGH.COM](http://WWW.AAUGH.COM). Nat writes of SPARKLE COMICS

Sparkle was published by United Features Syndicate and is filled with various United Features strips reprinted in color. There's Nancy, Li'l Abner, Willie, The Captain and the Kids, Little Coronado (which I think are just strips from Gus Arriola's "Gordo" focused on one of the supporting characters), and Strange As It Seems.

United Features had several series exploiting largely the same body of strips – Sparkle Comics, Sparkler Comics, Tip Top Comics, and Tip Topper Comics. If that sounds confusing, it's probably intentional, and the clue for the likely reason is in that "Feb-Mar" date. Back in 1936, United Feature launched Tip Top as a monthly series and added Sparkler a few years later. Then suddenly, after more than a decade, they cut Tip Top back to coming out every other month, and in months they didn't put out that book, they put out Tip Topper. Same thing happened with Sparkler and Sparkle. Obviously, someone who was looking for Sparkler would recognize Sparkle as basically the same mag. So why would a publisher go to the extra effort and confusion of splitting the title? Simple: because if you have two bimonthly books, you get more space on the newsstand. The retailer leaves each issue up for two months, creating more chance for each copy to sell rather than getting returned for a refund. (As long as the retailer is willing to put up with you hogging the space.)

TIP TOP COMICS, which Nat mentions above, has a separate listing on this website for the many comic books featuring GORDO in its title. Nat was also generous enough to share these images from SPARKLE:







**See also GORDO BOOKS NOT BY GUS ARRIOLA**

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